

# The LongPath

A North Alabama DX Club Publication

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## How to Join

\* Come to a club meeting;  
 \* or send in an application by mail (form on [www.NADXC.org](http://www.NADXC.org))  
 \* or call  
 Tom Duncan at (256)705-2147

## From the President

By Mark Brown, N4BCD

Contest season is upon us. On just about any weekend we find the CW, RTTY, or Phone segments of a band chock full of signals. And in the midst of it are some DXpeditions scattered around the globe. Most of them are operating three different modes? Why am I missing out?

I DON'T KNOW DIT.

Actually I do know dit. What I DON'T know is J from 1, such as when dit is followed by 3 or 4 dahs at 20+ words per minute. I did know enough CW to pass the Novice test 40 years ago and some letters are still automatic yet a few of them have settled into the brain creases and it takes too long to bring them up.

Finally I'm taking steps to correct that. Our very own Chuck Lewis N4NM is leading a class of about 20 enthusiastic students in learning CW. As you read this three sessions of the course have occurred at the Red Cross building preceding the Friday HARC meetings down the hall.

Chuck is using an online course developed by CWOPS.org to help students to learn character groups each week with focus on both sending and copying skills.

The fact that others are learning has motivated me to get proficient again. I'm supplementing those class sessions with evening listening on 40m & 80m, some other online speed drills and sending practice. I can make out 5NN & TU at 25 WPM but only copying callsigns at 6 WPM. More practice.

Two other NADXC members are climbing the ladder: Kelley W4VPZ and Bob KC4TNC

At our Tuesday meeting and per our Club By-Laws we'll be taking a sealed ballot vote for "especially deserving members may be recognized by the presentation of plaques or certificates". Please think about your nominee ahead of the meeting.

Next month we'll have our annual Christmas party meeting at Terra Nova's. Bring your spouse or significant other with you to enjoy a holiday meal with friends because there won't be much club business to get in the way of the camaraderie.

73,

Mark N4BCD

## Homebrew 5-band Hexbeam

November Program by Rob Conklin, N4WGY

A 5-band resonant antenna is generally quite a project regardless of the details. Come hear Rob's story about packing five bands into a hexbeam, from design through construction. Get to the Golden Corral around 6:00 pm for dinner, 7:00 pm for the business meeting, and 7:30 for Rob's program. See you there!



## October Meeting Minutes

By Kelley Vann Johns, W4VPZ, NADXC Secretary/Treasurer

### North Alabama DX Club Meeting Minutes for October 13, 2015

Members attending: 25

Guests: 6

President Mark Brown N4BCD opened the meeting at the Golden Corral.

#### Announcements

This is our Annual Meeting with officer elections and a review of programs and events over the past year.

- Oct-14 DXers and Contesters-Do They Mix? By AB4B
- Nov-14 Beverage Antenna History & Construction By AG4W
- Dec-14 Christmas Party at Terranova's
- Jan-15 Solar Indices and Their Effect on Propagation By KR4F
- Feb-15 Phased and Parasitic Arrays By N4KG
- Mar-15 Antennas for Portable Operations By WA4DXP
- Apr-15 Flex Signature Series Radios By AI4QR
- May-15 (first meeting at Golden Corral) FLDigi By W1HKJ
- Jun-15 (Bill resigned as Sec/Treas., Kelley was elected)  
Shack Layout & Ergonomics By KG4TEI
- Jul-15 Room unavailable, program moved to August
- Aug-15 Fiber Optics & Noise Immunity By KG4CUY
- Sep-15 High Frequency Terrain Analysis By N4BCD

#### NADXC Officers and Directors

President	Mark Brown, N4BCD
Vice President	Warren Alford, KJ4RAQ
Secretary/ Treasurer	Kelley Vann-Johns, W4VPZ
At-large directors	Kevin Hibbs, KG4TEI Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

Oct-15 QSK Mod By AG4W

#### DX Worked

Rob KB5EZ - E6 Niue, HBO Liechtenstein, S79 Seychelles, E51 South Cook Is (4 ATN0s)

Bruce AC4G - E6SS, T2GC, TX3X, S79SP, Z2, E51MGT North Cook (?), New low band QSOs

Bob K8KI - E51, T2, TX3X, Ghana, Z2

Tom KG4CUY - TX3X, E5 (NC) (?), RTTY 12 & 17m: Z2, T26C

Johnny KR4F - TX3X, E51MGT, T2GS

Steve AG4W - TX3X, T26C, S79, Z2, E51

Don W4DNR - K1N

AI W4ABW - FY5FY, E6GG, 4S7VG, T2GC, TX3X

Tim AB4B - S79 40m SSB

Mark N4BCD - TX3X<sup>3</sup>, T2GC<sup>4</sup>, E51MKW<sup>4</sup>, S79P<sup>1</sup>

Jim N4KH - TX3X, T2, E51

#### Treasurer's Report

Bank balance: \$4733.89. No credits or debits in September.

Members may begin renewing for 2016. Dues are individual memberships for \$15, and family for \$20. Cash or check in person at a meeting, or by web site PayPal link.

#### Membership Applications

No membership applications were received this month, but several guests introduced themselves.

#### Old Business

DXpedition sponsorship: So far this fiscal year the club has disbursed \$200 to VP8 South Sandwich Islands from a budgeted \$400 amount. There was a discussion of who should receive the balance of the budgeted amount.

The surplus in the treasury was also discussed. A proposed budget was published in the January 2015 Longpath, and it included some line items that have not been spent this fiscal year (\$150 for DX Banquet Speaker Expenses<sup>1</sup>, and, of \$300 allocated to Hamfest Banquet Door Prize Funds, only \$200 was spent). This unspent amount is \$250.

Unanimous votes allocated a \$200 donation to the Heard Island VK0EK DXpedition, a \$125 donation to the Willis Island VK9WA DXpedition, and \$125 to the Palmyra Island K5P DXpedition. Action was given to Kelley W4VPZ to make these donations, and also to request the use of the North Alabama DX Club's logo in the DXpeditions' materials and banners.

#### New Business

Officer Elections - the slate of candidates:

President - Mark N4BCD

Vice-President - Jim N4KH

Secretary/Treasurer - Kelley W4VPZ

Director - Tom KG4CUY

Director - Kevin KG4TEI

No nominations were given from the floor and the slate was elected unanimously.

At our November meeting we will vote for our DXer of the year.

The business meeting was closed.

Steve Werner AG4W presented a program about a QSK design change to his Ameritron amplifier.

1. We did not have to use the \$150 budgeted for the Banquet Speaker thanks to Bill KD8IGK's generous donation of his hotel points.

#### The LongPath Staff

##### Publisher/Editor:

Tom Duncan, KG4CUY

##### Departments:

Chuck Lewis, N4NM, DX Contests

Kelley Vann-Johns, W4VPZ, Minutes

Mark Brown, N4BCD, From the President



## HARC CW Class

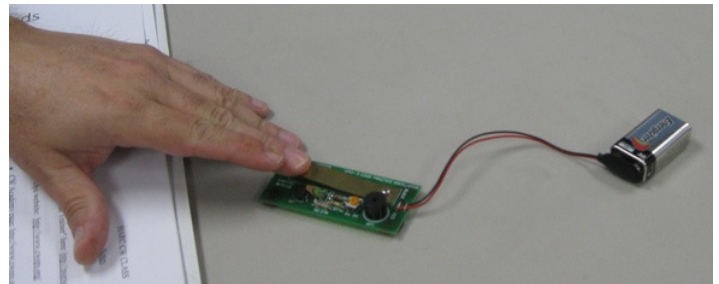
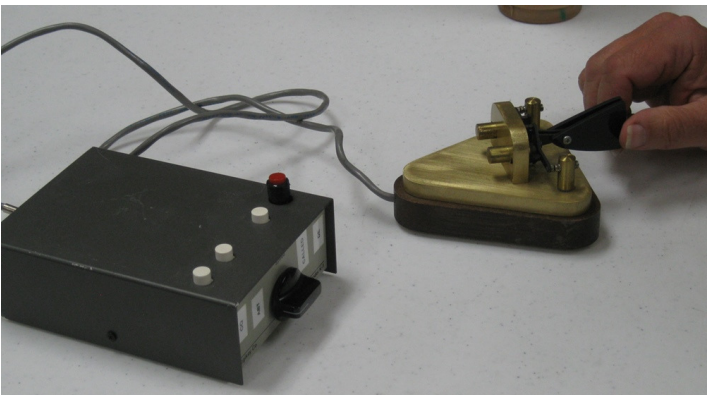
By Mark Brown, N4BCD

More than 20 enthusiastic students have attended the first two Friday classes to learn Morse Code. During the classes, which begin at 6 PM and last a little over an hour, students practice sending and receiving the letter and character groups learned that week.

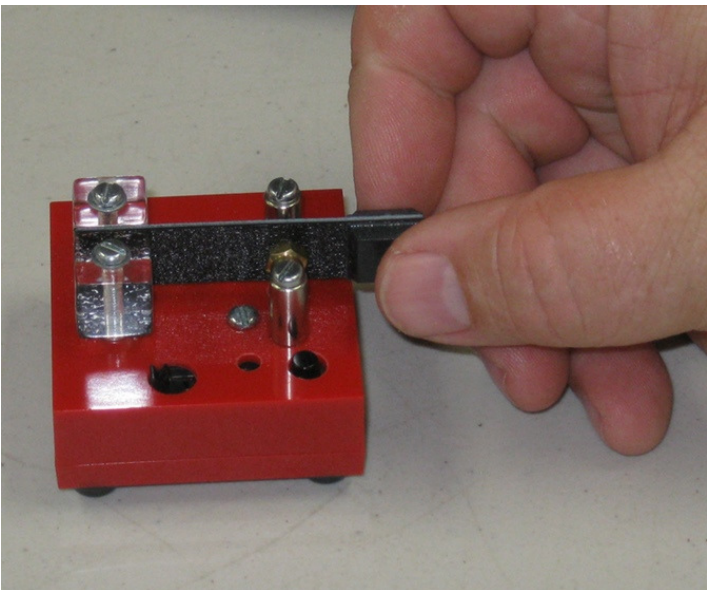


Chuck Lewis N4NM with years of CW experience is leading the class and using a web based tutorial authored by The CW Operator's Club (CWOps.org).

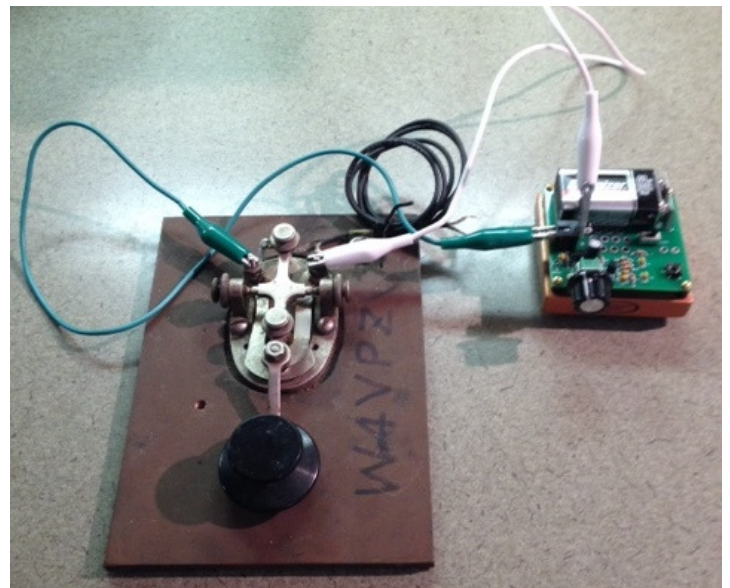
Below, John K4CNY using a Vibroplex triangular Brass Racer and Logikey K1 keyer.



Malcolm K4MLP using a Ramsey CPO3 code practice oscillator.



Bob KV4PC using a very tiny Whiterook MK-64. The base of the paddle contains the keyer circuitry for direct connection to a QRP rig. <http://electronicsusa.com/mk64.html>

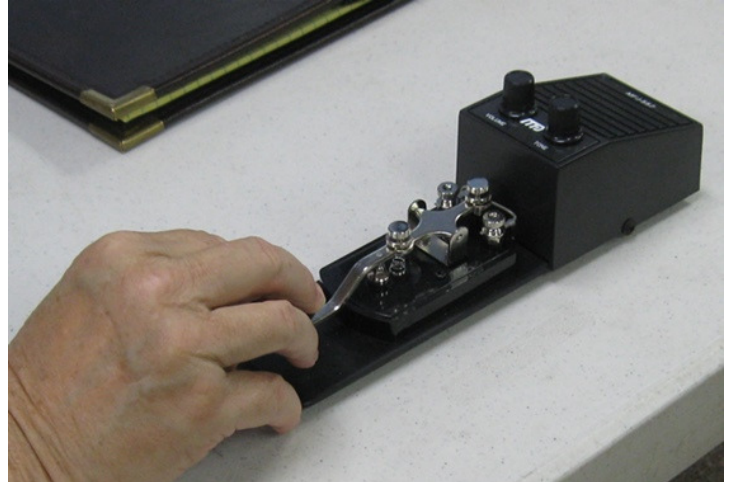


Kelley W4VPZ uses her father's straight key mounted on a thick solid copper base.

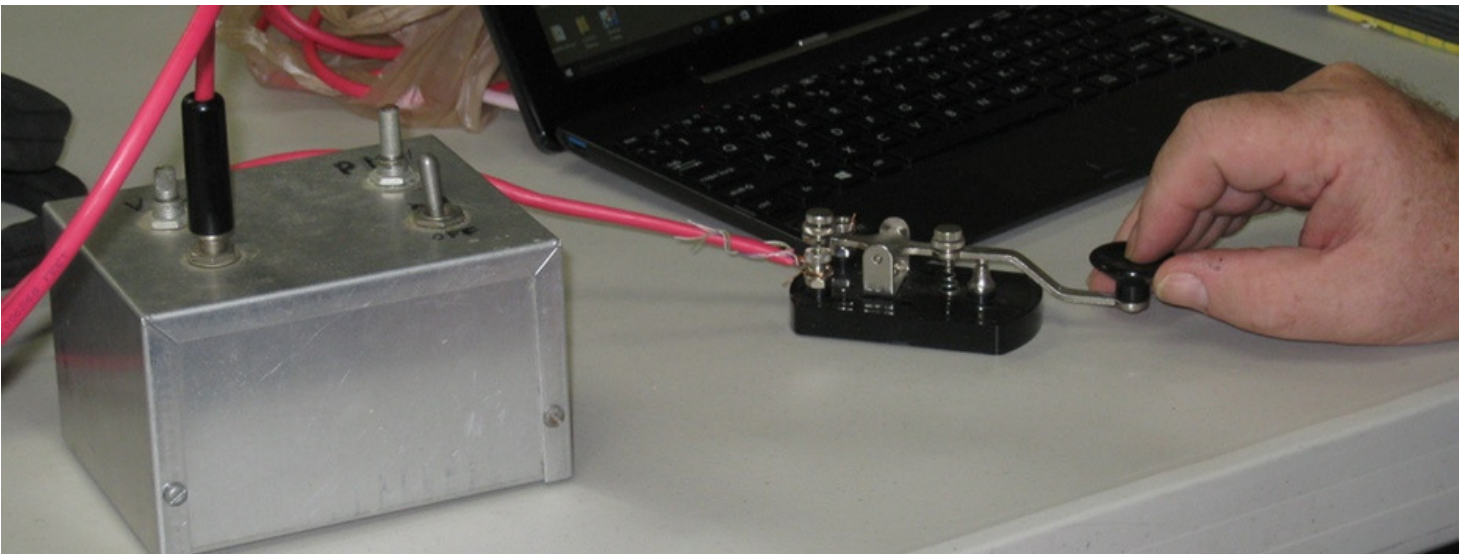




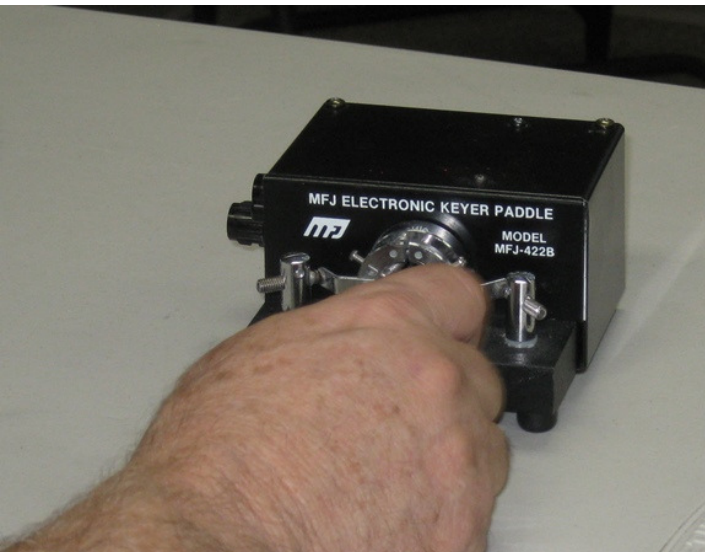
Rick KE4IOH using an IAMBINO key.



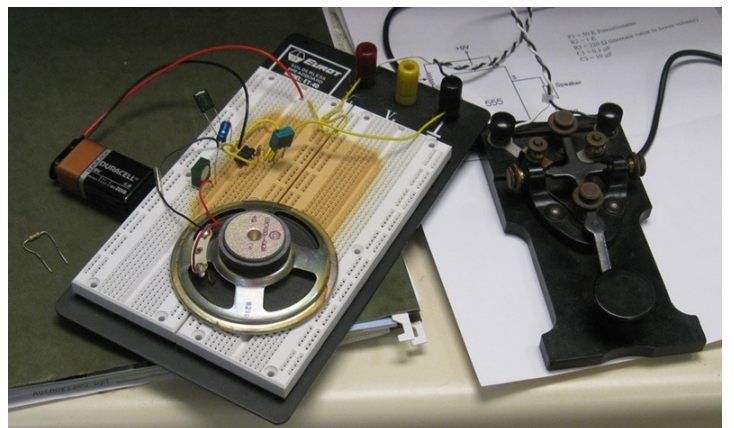
Craig KD4IYD (and a few others) were using the MFJ-559 for practice.



Below, Kellie KE4UAN using a home brew oscillator.



Bob KC4TNC using the MFJ-422B electronic keyer.



Mark N4BCD threw together a 555 based astable timer circuit on an experimenter board for a quick oscillator.

## Funding Thanks

The following notes of thanks have been received from DXpeditions to which we have contributed this year:

### PALMYRA

Mark, please pass along our gratitude to NADXC for their contribution to the Palmyra DXpedition.

As you know, many expenses must be paid before the trip and we have a large payment due on Nov. 1. We appreciate the help of your members and hope they are able to make many QSOs.

Janet W8CAA and Joe W8GEX

### WILLIS ISLAND

Kelley -

Thank you so much for the generous donation. We really appreciate your support of our DXpedition. I have added your logo to our web site and will include it on our QSL card, presentations, publications, etc. Please pass on to your membership our appreciation. We look forward to being on the air from Willis Island next month.

73,

Jared (N7SMI)

On behalf of the VK9WA DXpedition

### HEARD ISLAND

Dear Members of the North Alabama DX Club -

On behalf of the team, and DXers everywhere, I thank you for this very generous contribution to the Heard Island Expedition VK9EK. I have updated the website page [www.heardisland.org / SPONSORS/](http://www.heardisland.org/SPONSORS/) to show it in the "You Name It!" category.

I recommend that you watch DXA during the DXpedition, to see updates from the expedition every minute. You can see a developmental simulation of DXA running at [www.dxa3.org](http://www.dxa3.org).

I have signed you up for our electronic Newsletter, which will be sent to you automatically now and then. Past issues are at [http://www.heardisland.org/HD\\_pages/HD\\_newsletter\\_back\\_issues.html](http://www.heardisland.org/HD_pages/HD_newsletter_back_issues.html).

The main website for the expedition is [www.heardisland.org](http://www.heardisland.org), and the blog is at [www.vk0ek.org](http://www.vk0ek.org).

Thank you again for your support, and I wish you good luck in logging a QSO with VK0EK!

Bob KK6EK

Organizer/Expedition Leader

other DXpeditions. Some clubs have decided not to make any donation to us that gave quite generously to other recent DXpeditions.

While we appreciate each and every donation, we can tell you that a Club donation to us of \$500 amounts to a donation of \$250 for the activation of each of these rare and remote islands. With a budget of \$425,000 we are making small incremental steps when leaps and bounds are needed.

As you know, upfront donations are critical for a DXpeditions success. Each member of the Intrepid DX Group has contributed \$15,000 of their personal funds to move the VP8STI-South Sandwich and VP8 South Georgia DXpeditions forward. These are two ten day DXpeditions to two top ten DXCC entities back to back. (#3 and #8)

To date, we have raised \$142,000 above the team contribution of \$210,000. We still have a deficit of \$73,000 that we need to fill as much as we can.

It is only through the generosity of Club donations such as yours that we can make this DXpedition possible.

We would love to realize sufficient support so that the Intrepid-DX Group could plan the future activation of another top five island entity after the VP8STI/VP8SGI DXpedition. Without sufficient funding, we cannot make those kinds of plans for the future.

At this time, we are asking for those Foundations and Clubs that have not yet made a donation to please consider doing so. We cannot make it there on our own.

Please watch for updates and announcements on The Daily DX, DX-World, DX Coffee and DX News. We hope that you will consider a donation today,

Thank you,

Paul N6PSE, Co-Leader, VP8 Team

## VP8STI/VP8SGI Funding Request

The activations of South Sandwich and South Georgia Islands as VP8STI and VP8SGI in January-February 2016 are the next major DXpeditions to take place.

The decision to activate VP8-South Sandwich and VP8-South Georgia was made upon seeing how well FT4TA, FT5ZM and K1N were funded.

That gave us the confidence to go forward activating these two rare and remote islands on the same trip. We

are now finding ourselves with a significant funding shortfall. By adding South Georgia to our itinerary we added fifteen days at \$8,000 per day or \$120,000 onto the cost to activate South Sandwich.

Our analysis of our funding shows us that while our individual donations have exceeded all expectations, our club donations have not. We are seeing that many Clubs that gave FT5ZM or K1N \$1000-\$2000 are giving us \$500 or a fraction of what they gave to these



## DX Contests for November

By Chuck Lewis, N4NM

### WAE DX Contest (DIG), 80-10 meters

Nov. 14, 0000Z to Nov. 15, 2400Z

Exchange: RST plus serial number

(see rules for QTC)

See page 91, Nov. QST and

[www.waedc.de/referate/dx/contest](http://www.waedc.de/referate/dx/contest)

### Japan Int'l DX Contest, (SSB), 80-10 meters

Nov. 14, 0700Z to Nov. 15, 1300Z

(48 hours)

Exchange: RS plus CQ zone; JAs send prefecture

See page 91, Nov. QST and

[www.jidxrul-e.html.org](http://www.jidxrul-e.html.org)

### OK/OM DX Contest, CW, 160-10 meters

Nov. 14, 1200Z to Nov. 15, 1200Z

Exchange: RST plus serial number or OK/OM district

See page 91, Nov. QST and

[www.okomdx.crk.cz/index.php?page=english](http://www.okomdx.crk.cz/index.php?page=english)

### LZ DX Contest, (CW/SSB), 80-10 meters

Nov. 21, 1200Z to Nov. 22, 1200Z

Exchange: RST plus ITU zone or LZ district

See page 91, Nov. QST and

[www.lzdx.bfra.org/rulesen.html](http://www.lzdx.bfra.org/rulesen.html)

### All Austria 160 Meter Contest, (CW), 160 meters

Nov. 21, 1600Z to Nov. 22, 0700Z

Exchange: RST plus Serial Nr. (OEs send district)

See: page 91, Nov. QST and

[www.oevsv.at/](http://www.oevsv.at/)

### CQ Worldwide CW, (CW), 160-10 meters

Nov. 28, 0000Z to Nov. 29, 2359Z

Exchange: RST plus CQ zone

See page 91, Oct. QST and

[www.cqwww.com/rules.html](http://www.cqwww.com/rules.html)

### ARRL 160 Meter Contest, (CW), 160 meters

Dec. 4, 2200Z to Dec. 6, 1600Z

Exchange: RST plus Section

See: [www.arrl.org/160-meter](http://www.arrl.org/160-meter)

### ARRL Ten Meter Contest, (SSB/CW), 10 meters

Dec. 12, 0000Z to Dec. 13, 2400Z

Exchange: RST plus State/ Prov.; DX sends RST + S.N.

See: [www.arrl.org/10-meter](http://www.arrl.org/10-meter)

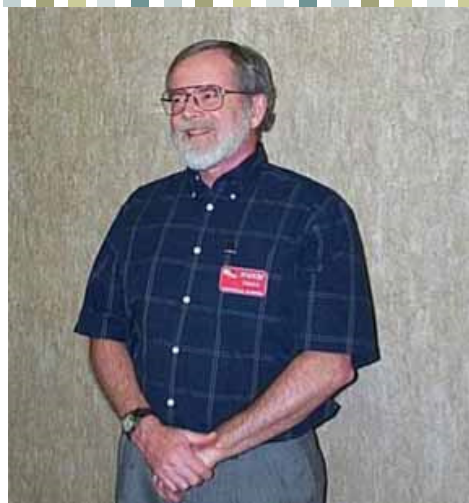
OTHERS:

DARC 10-Meter Digital Contest,

1100Z-1700Z, Nov 8

Dates & times often change or are misprinted in the journals; beware. Have fun!

Chuck, N4NM



## New Olympic Event

If you were excited when beach volleyball became a summer Olympics event, look what's coming for the winter! The fellow below is lifting feathers compared to the bruisers in the Heathkit Seneca/Apache class. We understand the lass to the right graduated from Bela Karolyi's tutelage to take on a real sport.

